THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNAPPA): (a) There are 14 National Highways passing through Karnataka, aggregating a length of 3978 Kms. The development of National Highways is a continuous process and the improvement works are taken up as per site requirement, *inter se priority and overall availability of funds*.

(b) At present there is no proposal to declare any new National Highways anywhere in the country including Karnataka.

(c) Twenty eight proposals aggregating a length of 7020 Km. have been received from the Government of Karnataka for conversion of State Roads to National Highways.

Construction of a Container Berth at JNPT

1133. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) proposes to construct a two Km. container berth as part of building a fourth container terminal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present amount of container traffic that is being handled by JNPT; and

(d) the amount of total container traffic that would be handled by the JNPT on completion of the above project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to develop a fourth containers terminal having a two Km. quay line for handling containers at Jawaharal Nehru Port. Feasibility study for the project has been completed. Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the project have been received from a number of parties.

(c) Jawaharlal Nehru Port handled 2.67 million Twenty Feet Equivalent Units (TEUs) of container cargo during the year 2005-06.

(d) On completion of the fourth container terminal project, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port is expected to handle 7.2 million TEUs of container cargo per annum.